

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A base member for a ferrule-type optical connector, said base member having:

 a first hollow bore extending from a first end toward a second end; and

 a recess coaxially aligned with said first hollow bore, said recess having a first internal perimeter, and a second internal perimeter, wherein said first perimeter is smaller than said second perimeter, wherein said recess is configured to receive a ferrule in friction-fit engagement with a surface of the first perimeter, wherein a termination region is disposed between said first internal perimeter and said second internal perimeter.

2. **(Original)** The base member of claim 1, wherein a post extends from a bottom of said recess.

3. **(Original)** The base member of claim 2, wherein said first hollow bore passes through said post and terminates at an end of said post.

4. **(Original)** The base member of claim 1, wherein a post extends from a bottom of said recess, said post having an end that terminates substantially in alignment with at least a portion of a termination region.

5. **(Canceled)**

6. **(Canceled)**

7. **(Original)** The base member of claim 1, wherein said first internal perimeter is sized to friction-fit a ferrule.

8. **(Original)** The base member of claim 1, wherein said second internal perimeter is sized to form a gap between a ferrule disposed in said recess and said second internal perimeter, said gap reducing frictional contact between the base member and the ferrule.

9. **(Previously Presented)** The base member of claim 1, wherein said base member receives a ferrule selected from the group consisting of a LC, ST, SC, or FC connector.

10. **(Previously Presented)** An optical connector adapted to receive a ferrule member therein, the ferrule member having a first hollow bore formed therein, a side surface and an end with a mating surface, said optical connector comprising:

a base member having an alignment recess, said alignment recess comprising:

a bottom wall,

a post member extending up from said bottom wall to a first height, a second bore extending through said post member, and

a sidewall having a first portion extending from said bottom wall to a second height that is lesser or equal to said first height, said first portion having a first perimeter, and a second portion extending from said sidewall first portion to a top of said alignment recess, said second portion having a second perimeter larger than said first perimeter, wherein said recess receives the ferrule in friction-fit engagement with said first portion.

11. **(Original)** The optical connector of claim 10, wherein said post member extends from said bottom wall of said alignment recess, said post member having an end that terminates substantially in alignment with at least a portion of a termination region disposed between said first portion and said second portion.

12. **(Original)** The optical connector of claim 11, wherein said first portion and said second portion have a stepped configuration.

13. **(Original)** The optical connector of claim 11, wherein said termination region creates a gradual change in a diameter of said alignment recess.

14. **(Canceled)**

15. **(Previously Presented)** The optical connector of claim 10, wherein a gap forms between said second portion and the ferrule.

16. **(Previously Presented)** The optical connector of claim 10, wherein the ferrule is selected from the group consisting of a LC, ST, SC, or FC connector.

17. **(Previously Presented)** The optical connector of claim 10, wherein a lateral force of the interference fit between said first portion and the ferrule exceeds any lateral force exerted between said second portion and the ferrule.

18. **(Original)** The optical connector of claim 17, wherein said second portion is dimensioned to not contact the ferrule when said interference fit is formed.

19. **(Previously Presented)** The optical connector of claim 10, wherein said post member inserts into the first bore when said interference fit is formed between the ferrule and said alignment recess in order to align the first bore and said second bore.

20. **(Original)** The optical connector of claim 19, wherein said alignment recess is generally circular in shape.

21. **(Currently Amended)** A connector comprising:
a based member comprising:

a hollow bore extending from a first end to a second end;

a recess defining a first outer perimeter and a second outer perimeter, the first outer perimeter being larger than the second outer perimeter, the recess being configured to receive a LC, ST, SC, or FC connector, the first outer perimeter being larger than an outer perimeter of the LC, ST, SC, or FC connector and the second outer perimeter being smaller than the outer perimeter of the LC, ST, SC, or FC connector such that the second outer perimeter receives the LC, ST, SC, or FC connector in a friction-fit engagement;
and

a termination region between the first outer perimeter and the second outer perimeter, wherein the termination region creates a slanted surface between the diameter of the first outer perimeter and the second outer perimeter such that the LC, ST, SC, or FC connector is guided into the second outer perimeter by the transition region.

22. **(Canceled)**

23. **(Previously Presented)** The optical connector of claim 10, wherein the base member, bottom wall, post member, and sidewall are unitarily formed.